

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 W
-----047572 021443Z /44

Z O 021350Z AUG 78

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1435

/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT FLASH 3708

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2096

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PORG, UNSC, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: CONVERSATIONS WITH BEGIN AND WEIZMAN ON
NEXT STEPS

REF: (A) STATE 194462, (B) BEIRUT 4402

1. I HAVE TRIED TO CONTACT WEIZMAN BEFORE LEAVING TO
MEET ROY ATHERTON AT THE AIRPORT THIS MORNING BUT HE HAD
ALREADY LEFT FOR JERUSALEM. WE EVENTUALLY MADE CONTACT
AT 1225 LOCAL TIME. (MEANWHILE, SECRETARY VANCE'S LETTER
TO GEGIN HAD BEEN DELIVERED TO BEGIN BY 1000 A.M. AND
WEIZMAN WAS ALSO INFORMED OF ITS CONTENTS.)

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2. I BRIEFED WEIZMAN ON GENERAL APPROACH AMBASSADOR
PARKER WAS TAKING WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS AND BOUTROS
THIS MORNING IN BEIRUT. SAID WE HAD NO REPORT YET
ON RESULTS OF THIS CONVERSATION BUT HOPED TO HAVE ONE
LATER THIS AFTERNOON. (I AM SEEING WEIZMAN AT 1800
HOURS LOCAL JUST AFTER ROY ATHERTON'S MEETING WITH

BEGIN, DAYAN, WEIZMAN, YADIN, ET AL. HAVE NOW RECEIVED PARKER'S REPORT, REF B. SINCE IT IS BY NO MEANS ALL POSITIVE, TO PUT IT MILDLY, I AM AWAITING DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS. THEY SHOULD REACH ME IN JERUSALEM IF AT ALL POSSIBLE BY 1730 (1130 WASHINGTON TIME.)

3. I WENT OVER POINTS IN PARA 10, REF A WITH WEIZMAN, NOT FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND UNDERScoreD VITAL IMPORTANCE OF ISRAELIS RESTRAINING HADDAD FROM ANY MORE SHELLING OF LAF ON UNIFEL FORCES. TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD REPORTS THAT SHELLING WENT ON THIS MORNING AND SAID "YOU JUST HAVE TO STOP HADDAD FROM ANY MORE SHELLING; NEITHER THE LEBANESE NOR UNIFIL HAVE RETURNED THE FIRE, AND IT IS TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE TO HAVE THIS CONTINUE." WEIZMAN SAID HE WOULD CHECK IMMEDIATELY ON THE SHELLING REPORTS, WHICH HE HAD IN HAND, AND BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH ME AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

4. WEIZMAN TOLD ME THAT AS A RESULT OF VANCE LETTER TO GEGIN, BEGIN WAS CONVENING THE CABINET'S DEFENSE SECURITY COMMITTEE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THEIR DISCUSSIONS WITH ROY ATHERTON. THEREFORE, THEIR CONSULTATIONS ON SOUTH LEBANON WILL BEGIN APPROXIMATELY 1830 JERUSALEM TIME. IT IS, THEREFORE, PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT I HAVE MORE TO SAY WEIZMAN LATER THIS AFTERNOON THAN REF B OFFERS.

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5. PRIME MINISTER BEGIN HAD ALSO TELEPHONE ME AND I SPOKE TO HIM IMMEDIATELY AFTER HANDING UP WITH WEIZMAN. HE TOLD ME OF THE CABINET MEETING LATER TODAY, SAID THAT THEY WOULD CONSIDER SECRETARY VANCE'S MESSAGE VERY CAREFULLY, AND THAT HE WOULD REPLY BY TOMORROW MORNING AT THE VERY LATEST. I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO HIT HARD ON REPORTS OF HADDAD'S FORCES SHELLING UNIFIL. SAID I URGED WEIZMAN TO STOP HADDAD, AND I ALSO REFERRED TO SOME OTHER POINTS IN PARA 10 IN REF B WITH REGARD TO ISRAELIS INTERNATIONAL POSITION SHOULD THIS TRAGIC SITUATION CONTINUE MUCH LONGER WITHOUT RESOLUTION. I PROMISED BEGIN A REPORT ON PARKER'S MEETINGS IN BEIRUT LATER TODAY, WHICH HE SAID HE WAS VERY ANXIOUS TO HAVE.

6. WEIZMAN'S AIDE TELEPHONED ME ABOUT A HALF HOUR LATER. HE ADMITTED WITH SOME EMBARRASSMENT THAT I WAS RIGHT ABOUT "SOME SHELLING" BY HADDAD'S FORCES THIS MORNING--HE SAID THAT PERHAPS FOUR SHELLS HAD FALLEN. I SAID WE KNEW THERE WERE SIX OR MORE, BUT THAT EVEN ONE WAS TOO MANY. I REITERATED INSISTENCE THAT

THE GOI HAD TO DO SOMETHING TO STOP HADDAD FROM THIS PROVOCATIVE ACTION. HE SAID HE WOULD INFORM THE MINISTER IMMEDIATELY.

7. SINCE THESE CONVERSATIONS TOOK PLACE WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED DICK PARKER'S REPORT ON HIS MEETING WITH SARKIS, HOSS, BOUTROS (REF B). ONLY REALLY ENCOURAGING NOTE I FIND IN IT IS THRID SENTENCE OF PARAGRAPH 7. ONLY RATIONAL SOLUTION AT THIS STAGE OF THE LEBANESE DILEMMA IS THE ONE WE HAVE PROPOSED, AND APPARENTLY GENERAL KHOURY AGREES WITH US. I ONLY HOPE HIS COUNSEL WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY HIS POLITICAL LEADERS.

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8. WITH REGARD TO PARA 9, "ADDENDUM" TO REF B, APPRECIATE VERY MUCH PARKER'S EFFORTS TO REMIND BEIRUT THAT ISRAELI ATTITUDE HAS NOT CHANGED IN COURSE OF PAST FEW DAYS. I GUESS WHAT HAS CHANGED IS LEBANESE BELATED RECOGNITION OF FACT THAT HADDAD COULD NOT SO EASILY BE PUT OFF BY "LEBANON SOLUTION," PARTICULARLY WITH ISRAELIS STIFFENING HIS SPINE AS THEY UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE DONE. AS WE HAVE BEEN SAYING FOR SEVERAL DAYS NOW, THIS THORNY MATTER OF THE SOUTH MUST BE DEALT WITH INCREMENTALLY IF THERE IS ANY HOPE OF SUCCESS. FIRST GET SOME LEBANESE FORCES PEACEFULLY AND SUCCESSFULLY DEPLOYED IN SOME SECURE AREAS OF THE SOUTH. THEN AND ONLY THEN TRY TO WORK OUT SOME SOLUTION FOR HADDAD AND SHIDIAK. PERHAPS GENERAL KHOURY'S ADVICE WILL BE TAKEN. IF SO, SOME COMMUNICATION IF ONLY THROUGH UNIFIL OFFICERS WILL CONTINUE TO BE REQUIRED BETWEEN THE LAF AND HADDAD TO AVOID EXPLOSIONS.

9. HOPE BEIRUT AND WASHINGTON CAN PROVIDE ME WITH SOME FURTHER AMMUNITION TO USE LATER THIS AFTERNOON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY PLANS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA02096
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780316-0291
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808108/aaaadmue.tel
Line Count: 159
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e4108b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 194462, 78 BEIRUT 4402
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1564307
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH LEBANON: CONVERSATIONS WITH BEGIN AND WEIZMAN ON NEXT STEPS
TAGS: MILI, PORG, LE, IS, US, UNSC, (BEGIN, MENAHEM), (WEIZMAN, EZER)
To: STATE BEIRUT
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e4108b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014